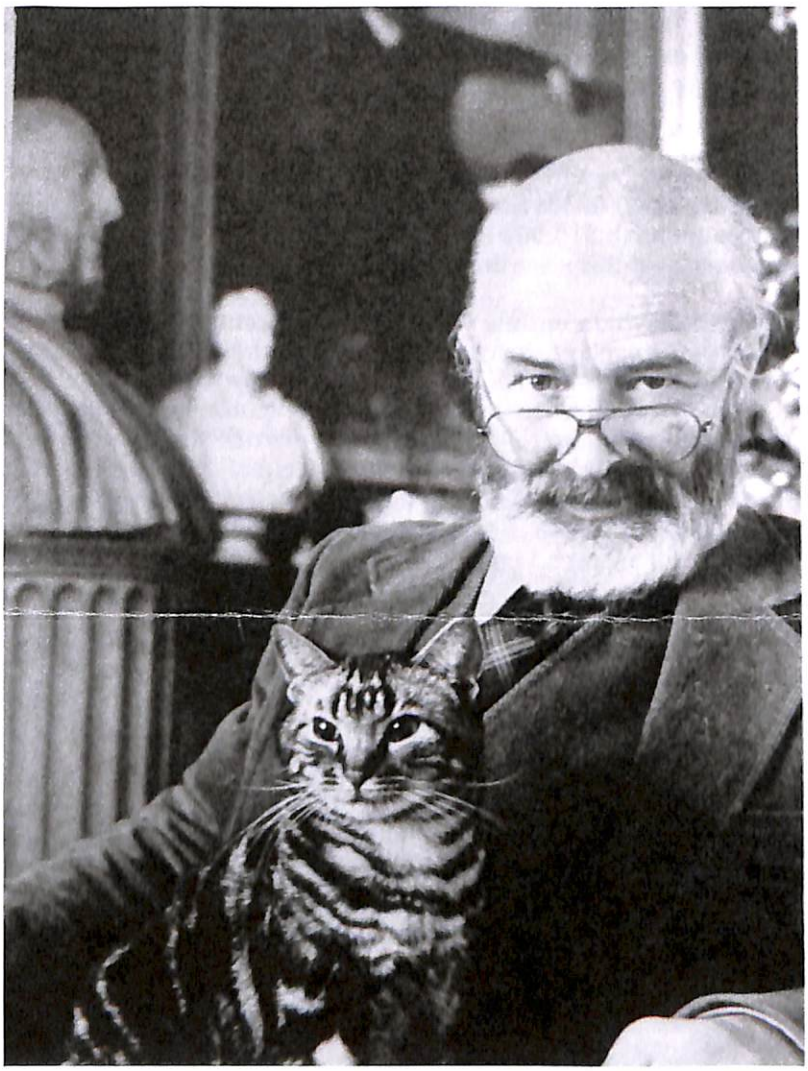
TAFT TALK

No. 66 *Newsletter of the Taft Family Association* Jun 2014



Neil Bowman Todd (1936-2014)

Neil Bowman Todd...

It may have started with the inheritance of taillessness in Manx cats but how extraordinary the life pursuits of Neil Todd.

(see page 3)

Our intrepid, resourceful, energetic, disciplined, indefatigable researcher!

Neil Todd was officially known to us as the TFA vice-president and genealogist. Neil was always the voice for professionalism and precision in historical research. As my mentor, he inspired me to document my sources and to continue looking for more information when dead ends seemed to loom. Neil was the inspiration and compiler of the Taft DNA study (back when that was still a new and somewhat obscure field) that settled the issue of the closeness of the relationship between Robert and Matthew Taft (not close at all).

Of course as with most of Neil's work, it created more questions - which only delighted him even more for here were new areas of inquiry to pursue. And delight he did in all his interactions and efforts to aid our members in finding their accurate ancestry. Words can't begin to express our loss.

Again, this has been a very difficult year for our Taft family. We have had some of our great stalwarts pass in the last twelve months, and they will be sorely missed. When I first became involved with the Taft Family Association, the first people I met at the Reunion in Mendon were Dick Messinger and Neil Todd with whom I had been corresponding concerning Worcester County Deeds. Next I met Emma Barrows, Virginia Taft, Milly Goss and Berneta DeVries. Their great efforts and leadership kept the TFA vibrant and responsive to members' needs. That was nearly twenty years ago.

I doubt we will have more reunions at this point, unless a member or two would like to take that on as a project. And with the loss of our principal partners, it is looking increasingly likely that the TFA will cease to exist as we know it. A couple years ago I sent a survey around and received many responses. That kept us going - knowing how important the organization is to many of you and how much you enjoy receiving the newsletter.

I do believe we have reached that point, however, where we either need several of you to join the board (please look on the last page and see how few we are now) or we need to restructure ourselves. Financially we are in good shape and actually have a CD account with $10,000 in it. We have our business funds as well. I would like to know what your thoughts are concerning this situation.

My inclination is to begin thinking about getting all our data online. I have male and female Taft databases with over 35,000 Taft names as well as gedcom files for each of the brothers and Matthew Taft. Databases exist for the US Federal Censuses from 1790 to 1940, some war lists, and my current project is compiling a database on all the Taft gravesites on FindAGrave. All of these keep changing as new information arises; but at this point, I am about the only one trying to keep this up to date. If there is anyone who has the time and inclination to help get this online, let me know. We do have funds that could help with that effort. On the other hand we have some money, should we disband, that could go to either an organization like NEHGS, the Mendon or Uxbridge Historical Societies, or perhaps small grants to cemeteries that have substantial Taft gravestones. My email is: patmarkallen@gmail.com

The Ice Is Out

Roy Henry sent us some information on the Taft Ice Company.

Dandridge Taft (1828-1895) and his family built the first icehouse on the shore of Rivulet Pond in North Uxbridge, MA in 1895. According to Refrigerating World *(Ice Trade Journal Company Jan 1907 vol 33 p 51)*: "E. G. & R. Taft of North Uxbridge expect to harvest 10,000 tons from Rivulet Ponds this winter..."

It burned down on 8 Jun 1909. Then E. G. and R. Taft re-built the icehouse on 21 Jul 1909. The new building was 105 ft x 130 ft and about 30 ft high. That winter they cut 8,000 tons of ice. Robert Taft was listed as late as 1940 (federal census) as an ice dealer.

That's a lot of ice!! Think about the inventory they would have had this year!

Ernest G. and Robert were sons of Dandridge Gordon (Warner, Samuel, Israel, Robert, Robert) Taft.

Photo of a similar ice operation in Sturbridge, MA (photo from taylorbakercousins.blogspot.com

Correction

Roy Henry noted that our lead story in the last TTT was supposed to be continued on page 2. It actually ended up on page 7. My apologies for misleading you. Thank you, Roy.

In Memoriam

Neil Bowman Todd

Neil Bowman Todd, of Newtonville, MA, the son of Albert Bradbury Todd, Jr., and Mary Heath, was born 3 Jan 1936 in Cambridge, MA and passed away on Sunday, 30 Mar 2014 after a lengthy illness.

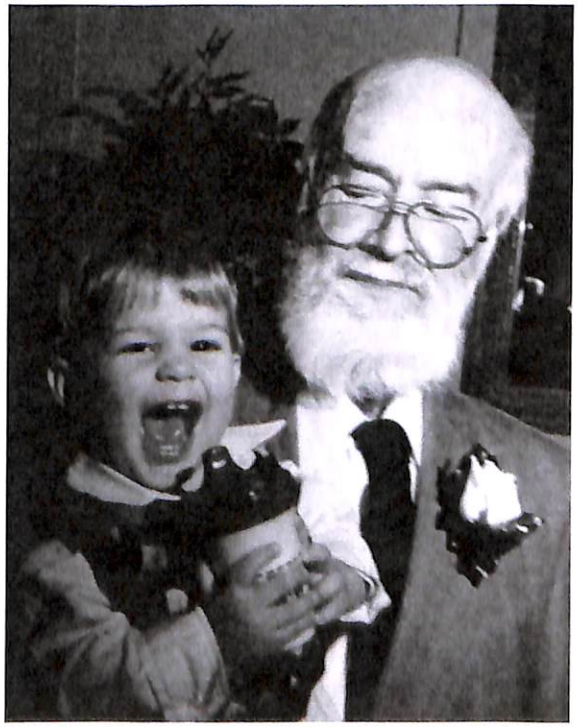
"Neil's love of traveling and world affairs began when he was young, traveling and living with his military family on Army Air Corps bases in Alabama, Maine and Wales. From the age of seven, Neil was an avid collector, specializing in comic books, coins and stamps. For many years, he was affiliated with numismatic societies and was a co-founder of Colony Coin Company in Newtonville with his partners Harvey Fenton, Charles Wallace and Arthur Fitts III.

"Neil graduated from UMass/Amherst with Honors in Zoology for his publication on "The Inheritance of Taillessness in Manx Cats." While at UMass/Amherst, he met his wife, Joyce (Seat) Todd of Springfield, MA. Neil and Joyce moved to Newtonville when Neil began his doctoral studies in biology at Harvard University, completing his dissertation, "The Catnip Response", in 1963. An N.I.H. post-doctoral fellowship and the Committee for the Study of Evolutionary Biology at Harvard University supported his field studies on the lions in the Gir Forest, Gujarat State, India.

"Dr. Todd was affiliated with and taught biology at Harvard University, Boston University, Lesley University, Emmanuel College and Trinity University in Dublin, Ireland. He combined his love of history with his interest in genetics, engaging in extensive travel in order to map the gene frequency distribution of the domestic cat. By conducting historical research on shipping and trade routes, he was able to determine how specific coat patterns and other genetic markers were distributed throughout the world. His field studies were conducted in Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, Iceland, Faroe Islands, France, Spain, Iran, Morocco, Tunisia, Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Sudan, Mexico, Curacao, and Venezuela. For seventeen years, Dr. Todd published The Carnivore Genetics Newsletter with Roy Robinson in charge of the editorial office in London. Dr. Todd's articles have also appeared in the Journal of Heredity, The Cornell Veterinarian, Journal of The Bombay Natural History Society, Journal of Theoretical Biology, Current Anthropology, Paleobiology, Genetica, Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy and Scientific American. Throughout his life, Neil maintained an interest in numismatics, developing a special interest in 19th century tavern checks of the British Isles and Ireland. Together with his colleague Andrew Cunningham of Ruddington, Nottingham, U.K., Neil published numerous catalogues of tavern checks, a pursuit he continued until his death.

For the past twenty years, Neil was affiliated with the New England Historical Genealogical Society where he was head of Research Services in the 1990's. He thoroughly enjoyed helping people learn about their ancestry. He was actively involved in The Taft Family Association both as a member and as Vice President & Genealogist until illness prevented him from participating. He had also been a member of the Bartlett Family Association for many years. In the 1980's, he interrupted his already busy life by buying and restoring a 1931 Worcester lunch car with Charles Wallace. They purchased the Midway Diner and moved it from Shrewsbury to Pleasant Street in Watertown where they spent several years restoring it." *(Boston Herald 6 Apr 2014)*

Neil Bowman Todd was the son of Albert Bradbury Todd and Mary Medbury Heath (Lewis Taft Heath, Charles Andrew Septimus Heath and Anne Elida (Lewis, Asa, Asa, Silas, Stephen, Benjamin, Robert) Taft.



Neil and his grandson

Bits and Pieces of Benjamin Taft's family

Maxine asks a couple questions as do Nick and Kathy about Benjamin Taft's family. This is the Benjamin E. Taft who is posited to be the same man as Benjamin Taft, son of Benjamin and Thankful (Washburn) Taft, although proof has not been found to date. Both men are listed in various records as born about 1794 in VT. Therefore we cannot confirm the lineage of Benjamin E. Taft back to Robert but suggest he is Benjamin E. (Benjamin, Seth, Stephen, Benjamin, Robert) Taft.

Maxine writes "I finally woke up… or maybe I'm just getting thawed out from winter."
And by the way – A VERY HAPPY AND HEALTHY BIRTHDAY TO MAXINE WHO IS NOW 93 YEARS YOUNG!!

A. Her first question asks whether the death records she found many years ago for a James F. Taft would make him a descendant of Benjamin E. Taft. The death record in Greene, Chenango, NY lists: James F. Taft died 10 Aug 1848, aged 30, shoemaker. He was married and died of typhoid.

We show James F. Taft, who was born about 1818 perhaps in Triangle, Broome, NY, was the son of Lucy Fuller (second wife) and Asa (Silas, Stephen, Benjamin, Robert) Taft. He married before 1839 Mary Ann Ellison. James F. and Mary Ann (Ellison) Taft had six children: Amanda, Alonzo H., Charles H., Lucy, Eugene, and James F. Taft. Neil Todd's research states:

> "It may be inferred from his father's will (1839) that James F. was older than his brother, Ambrose. James was a shoemaker. His widow, Mary Ann, with Amanda and James, was living at Triangle, Broome, NY at the taking of the 1850 census. Sons Alonzo and Charles were apparently "farmed out" in households at Barker, Broome, NY. Lucy and Eugene have not been located in 1850. James F. Jr gives Indiana as his birthplace in both 1880 and 1900. Hence it appears that James F. Sr and his family must have gone to Indiana shortly before his death/. Son Charles may have resided at Brooklyn. Daughter Lucy married twice, first to a man named Baker, and may have married 2d David Kelley, a conductor. Son Eugene a farmer, said to have gone to Nebraska, but not found in 1880 or 1900 Soundex of that state. Son James F. Taft Jr born Sep 1848 (or 1845). Daughter Amanda married John Hunter. In 1860 John Hunter, master mason, and Amanda resided at Triangle, NY. In their household was Amanda's brother, Alonzo Taft, mason's apprentice. Neither John nor Amanda appear in the census of Triangle, NY for 1870, nor in the 1880 Soundex of NY. Not sure if they had children."

B. Maxine also notes Alanson and Seymour were sons of Benjamin E. and Lucretia (McIntyre) Taft. "In all the looking I think a lot of people have decided that Phebe Taft born 4 Jun 1825 married Julius Wiley and became Grandma Wiley."

We show Phebe A. Taft, born 4 Jun 1825 in Cattaraugus, NY and died 6 Aug 1906 in Lake Co., MI, as the daughter of Benjamin E. and Lucretia (McIntyre) Taft. As Maxine noted Alanson, William Seymour and Phebe were children of Benjamin E. Taft by his first wife Lucretia McIntyre. Benjamin E. then married about Oct 1833 Deborah Vial in NY and had seven more children: Almira, Harriet, Benjamin F., Lucretia, Seth S., Sophronia, and Reuben Edward Taft.

Phebe A. Taft married Julius J. Wiley in NY. Julius J. Wiley was born in 1818 in Livingston Co., NY and died 14 Jul 1899 in Ashton, MI. They had five children: James Lewis, Mary L., Emma J., Anson Augustus, and Ella Louise Taft.

David W. Taft states (freepages.family.rootsweb.ancesetry.com Descendants of Benjamin E Taft by David W Taft 2004):

> "The existence of Phebe as a daughter is unclear. Phebe's death certificate lists her father as Benjamin Taft with no mother listed. She was born in Cattaraugus Co., NY. No census records for Benjamin E. Taft have been positively identified for 1830 to confirm a daughter in the household. In 1840 Benjamin E. Taft was living in West Salem, Mercer, PA. The census supports his second family, but would not account for Phebe, age 15. Paula Wilkinson's theory is that Phebe may have stayed with some McIntyre relatives after her father's marriage to Deborah Vial. At least one McIntyre family (Joseph McIntyre) moved from Cattaraugus Co., NY to Wayland, Allegan Co., MI in 1870. Although my records indicate that Phebe is buried in Ashton, Osceola, MI, her death certificate is found in Lake Co., MI, Record No. 32."

Bits and Pieces continuation p 9

We would love to hear from you – photos, stories, write an article. We are interested.

"Gunshot and Gleanings of The Historic Carrying Place, Bay of Quinte"

Start with Carrying Place and move on to guns and gleanings and you find... Tafts!

In commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the Gunshot Treaty (Toronto Purchase) at Carrying Place in 1787 the 7th Town Historical Society asked residents and historians to chronicle the history of the area. In an effort to find homes for the loyalists from the American colonies, the British government had negotiated with the chiefs of the Mississauga Indians who then ceded lands theoretically "covering as far as a gunshot could be heard," receiving about L2,000 and goods such as "muskets, ammunition, tobacco, laced hats and enough red cloth for 12 coats." *(watershedmagazine.com The Gunshot Treaty, Defining a Nation, by Peter Lockyer)*

Within the more than twenty pages she wrote, Cora Bell (McLaughlin) Taft, a descendant of Obadiah Simpson, the first white settler of Carrying Place, colorfully and lovingly sketched the families who lived there. Clint Taft kindly copied and sent her article on to us.

Cora wrote that her family moved to Carrying Place in Apr 1903 to take over a blacksmith shop. "It was a lovely spring day that my grandfather drove my mother and me down there in a democrat with a team of horses... On the way down we found Mother's rocking chair which had fallen off the load of furniture."

"The house we moved into was very small, only one storey, which is the style today. In 1915 it was torn down and another one built...The blacksmith shop was torn down when number 33 Highway went through. The land that was pasture along the new highway is all built up in lovely homes now...

Cora Bell (McLaughlin) Taft and son William (from Cora Taft Collection)

"Then comes the little United Church which was built in 1909 following the big fire of September, 1906. As I recall it, I must tell you about that Sunday, the first week of September. Mother and I had come up to Brighton on the train for a few days. Early Sunday morning Grandfather, Mother and I started out with a horse and buggy to go back to the Carrying Place. Well, as we came out of the woods along by the Quinn land... we could see a small puff of smoke. The horse was rather slow, so by the time we crossed the railway track and drove on to the Carrying Place, there was the old blacksmith shop of Henry Hayes all burned. That's where it started. Across from it the old Rowe Town Hall, on the corner a large brick store (Empey) which was a hotel once, all afire. East of that was Mr. Hayes's brick house ... all afire, beyond that the old Methodist church, all burning. The wind stayed west and saved our place across the road on the south side. It was a terrible few hours. They carried our furniture in the field behind, but the house was saved. I carried out the smoothing irons, and Mother's china plate with red roses on it, and dropped them down in a heap on the ground. How excited can one get!

(Gunshot and Gleaningcont. see p. 6)

FYI

If you have had my email bounce back, my apologies. As you may have guessed, the e-mail gremlins have attacked... and won. The new email address for your editor is: patmarkallen@gmail.com

Communications

We received a letter from Martha Helen (Taft) Slade and her daughter Mary 'Polly" dated 12 Mar 2012;

My Mother and I have moved to Feather Canyon Retirement Residence, 5900 Canyon View Dr, Paradise, CA

We are very happy about the move because there are so many activities that Mary "Polly" can go to like 'Fit To Be Fit." There is a Feather Canyon Van that connects with the bus line. My Mom is 95 now, and she needed to be in a safe place because she has fallen many times, yet she has never broken anything until now. She broke her pelvis on moving day 1 Mar. She is recovering from the fall and is doing physical therapy.

We would love to have visitors. Hope to see you soon!

We also received our usual communicative letter from Louise Plumley dated 22 Jan 2014:

Sure has been a cold winter! Snow hasn't been too deep yet. We used to like winter, but when one gets older it isn't so good!!

My husband had cataract surgery this past summer (both eyes). He can see well now. He is 87 years old. I am 83 years old. We'll be married 63 years on 2 Feb 2014. We have help for things we can't do.

Our daughter Sharon helps to take us to our appointments and to get our groceries, since we don't drive any more. Our grandson Ryan helps. It's nice when your family live close. We have other people that help also! Thank God.

Last year we lost two sisters-in-law: one was my brother Milton Taft's widow Lois Smith Taft on 28 May 2013. My brother Paul Taft's wife Shirley Eves Taft passed 29 Nov 2013. My sister Janet Taft Carey had open heart surgery at Rochester, NY the new way had to have an aorta valve replaced in May 2013 She came from the hospital 30 May. My brother Paul, my sister Phyllis, and my sister Rosie are all doing as good as can be.

Our daughter Sharon isn't able to work anymore. She had a problem when she hurt her leg when she was younger and had a motorcycle land on her leg which now bother her leg and back. So now we all go with canes. She is 60 years old last June 6th.

I wish we could have been able to attend the Taft Gatherings, we don't have any here anymore.

Gunshot and Gleanings *cont from p 5*

"Everything was dry and brown and these buildings went like match wood. There were flying pieces of burnt material going in every direction and people pounding the grass out with wet bags. They drew water from the bay to put out the fires on the roofs of the other buildings which got afire. ...

"I also have some very pleasant memories of the Anglican Church and Sunday School. I used to go to the Anglican Sunday school in the morning and the Methodist in the afternoon, also the Church. In those days that was all we had to do on Sunday. ...

"I used to pick berries with Mrs. Hawkins... We would run races, sometimes I beat her, sometimes she picked the most. But it was fun, and we only got one cent a box. They would let us bring home a carrier of berries for 30 cents, 6 one quart boxes. The growers only got five dollars a hundred for strawberries at that time. Other folks I have picked berries for... the berries were mostly red and blue raspberries and long black berries. In those years nearly all the people in Gardenville about two miles from the Carrying Place grew berries. It was light land and well suited for berries...

"The little Methodist (United) Church was built in 1909. I remember my husband Alva Taft and Clarence Quackenbush went to Morganston with his horse and the Quackenbush horse hitched to a lumber wagon and brought a load of seats back to the Carrying Place for the little new Methodist Church. They had got new seats at the Morganston Church....

"The town well is still where it was 60 years ago, only it has a pump. But for a great many years it only had a curb and you drew the pail up with a pole. Many's the pail of water I carried from that well. I remember Arthur Hayes who used to bother me by grabbing the pail. I told him one day I would pour it all over him if he didn't stop. Well Arthur kept on and I up with the pail and threw it all over him. At the time I didn't know his father was watching me. Well, he never bothered me again. His father said I did right...

See Gunshot and Gleanings continued on p 7

Gunshot and Gleanings cont from p 6

"There were eight Taft boys in Alf's family, only one left. There were Marcus, Charles, Joseph, Leonard, Finlay, Thomas, Alva and Ray the only one alive now (20 Aug 1964). But there are quite a few of those mentioned not buried in the Carrying Place cemetery…

"Then north of the store was the town Hall in the upstairs, down below it had been used for a mill at one time. The Anglican Church used to have their Christmas tree there. I remember a play I was in. It was about the new minister's wife. It seems the neighbours didn't see her come. But they did see the preacher kissing this woman out in the yard. We all had some gossip to tell. One had been hanging out clothes and watching them. My part was, I was all out of breath to tell it, 'and she had a red fandangle on her hat.' Well, the story turned out it was his wife he was kissing….

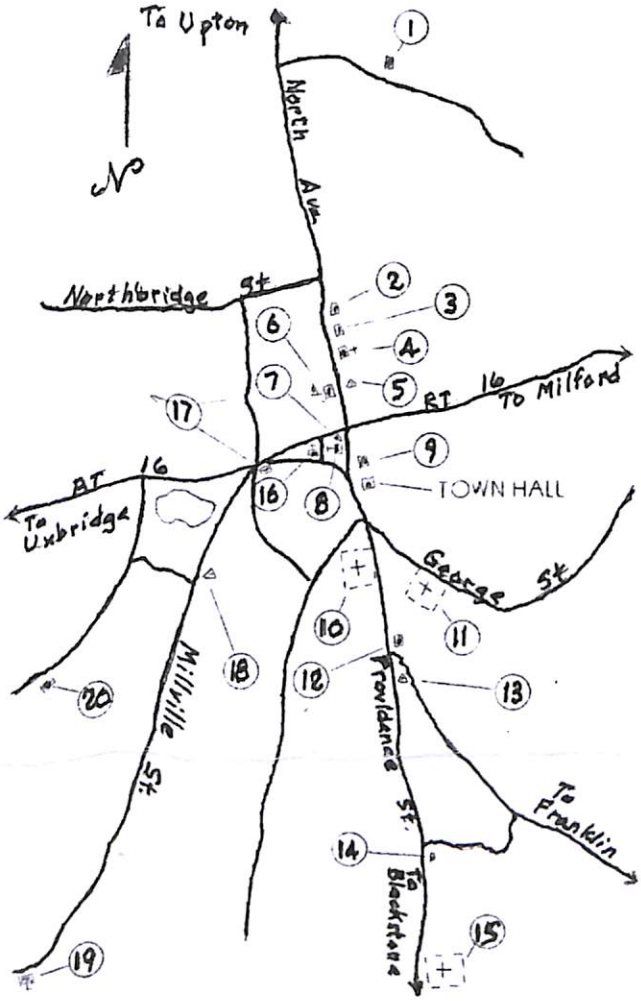
"Mary (Empey) Bonter… I used to visit with May. We had very nice times together. Up at her place I learned to play crokinole*. Have I ever had sore fingers…

"I looked after the school once and I used to go up to Mr Young's to get my money. I think it was only $30 a year. A caretaker didn't get much in those days. …

"Alf and I were there to see and hear the speaking (at the erection of the cairn commemoration of the treaty in 1934). … I spent seven years there at the Carrying Place from 1903 to 1910, and then Alf and I moved to Brighton where he was a blacksmith for around 40 years.

* Crokinole is a board game played like shuffleboard in the round. Players take turns flicking disks on a board trying to score points by reaching certain areas on the board. They must make contact with other player's pieces to stay on the board. The game still exists and each June there is a World Crokinole Championship held in Tavistock, CAN.

23 Oct 1908: Harry Bingley, Joe Taft, Fred Kemp, Ray Taft, Ray Church, Lionel Young, Tom young, Sid Hayes (from the Cora Taft Collection)



Mendon, MA celebrated their Tercentenary in 1967 and as part of the events they held a house and historical sites tour. The layout above shows the location of the tours. Several people have asked us about the locations of some of these places so we have included the map and explanations.

1. Dr. LeMarbre Home, Hopedale St.: contemporary home
2. Gomez Home, North Ave. one of original home-sites: Torrey family lived here
3. Dr. Luckert Home, North Ave.: built c 1723 by Capt. William Torrey; originally salt-box; complete restoration of building including original antiques
4. St. Michael's Church, North Ave.: Established in 1952
5. Post Lane Marker, North Ave.: where Indian path entered town site; first settlers and George Washington also followed this way
6. Elementary School, North Ave.
7. Founders Park – Amidon Tavern, Historical Museum, Main St.: Park was site of first 3 meeting houses; Amidon Tavern built in 1789; Historical Society built in 1825
8. Baptist Church, Main St.: built in 1830, first Evangelical Congregational, then Methodist church, then Baptist Church
9. Taft Public Library, Main St.: originally used as chapel; given to town for library in 1920
10. Old Cemetery, Main St.: many first settlers are buried here
11. Quaker Cemetery, George St.: also site of Quaker Church built abt 1729, used until abt 1841
12. Morrison Home and Bootery, Providence St.: Cape Cod style; 1822 Sumner Ballou sold to Daniel Thurber for shoe business until 1892
13. Massacre Marker, Providence St.: commemorates death settlers at the hands of the Indians 14 Jul 1675
14. Old Town Pound, Providence St.: one of several pounds
15. Pine Hill Cemetery, Providence St.: Indian burial ground taken over by early settlers; soldiers of several wars are buried here as are many Tafts
16. Unitarian Church, Maple St.: church designed by Elias Carter in 1820
17. Dr. Thomas Home on Maple St.: built by Caleb Hayward in 1820.
18. Taft Monument, Millville St.: home site of Robert and Sarah Taft, erected by descendants
19. Chestnut Hill Meeting House, Millville St.: built in 1769 and used for town meetings; only New England house of worship preserved in its original state
20. Wild Acres, B. Chaleki Home, Park St.: built in 1779 by Darius Daniels.

In Memoriam

A. Ronald Taft

A. Ronald Taft was born in Brighton, Ontario, CAN in 1932, raised and schooled there, and passed away in Brockville, CAN at home on Monday 7 Oct 2013 in his 81st year. He was buried in the Mount Hope Cemetery in Brighton, CAN. ,Ronald was the beloved husband of Geraldine "Jerry" (Courneyea) Taft and the beloved son of the late Alva and Cora Taft. Ronald was predeceased by his sister Anita Farrow, and brothers Bill Taft and Neil Taft. Ronald Taft never had children, but he will be missed by many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Ronald Taft was the previous owner-operator of Taft Auto Wreckers in Brighton. He loved music, singing, playing guitar, and going to Jamborees. His second cousin, Clint A. Taft, noted that Ronald was a great man who will be greatly missed by all.

Alva Ronald Taft was the son of Cora Bell McLaughlin and Alva Bentley (David Humphrey / Umphrey, Donald, Alpheus, Daniel, Daniel, Robert) Taft.

Note: Ronald Taft's mother is the Cora Bell McLaughlin of "Gunshot and Gleanings" see page 5.

Bits and Pieces *(continued from p 4)*

C. We also received a note from Nick and Kathy Lester of Prairie Du Sac, WI who asked if anyone knew why Alanson relocated from MA to WI.

Alanson Taft son of Benjamin E. and his first wife, Lucretia (McIntyre) Taft, was born 3 Sep 1817 in Machias, Cattaraugus, NY and died 11 Jan 1907 in Haney, Crawford, WI (VR Crawford Co). He married first about 1840 in West Salem, PA Elizabeth Graves. Elizabeth Graves, daughter of Roswell and Mary Ann (Betts) Graves, was born 17 Oct 1824 in Mercer Co., PA and died 16 Jul 1764 in Crawford Co., WI. Alanson married second bef 1860 Lucinda (--). Alanson and Elizabeth (Graves) Taft had eight children: Absalom, Phoebe A., Mary Elizabeth, Elizabeth "Lib", Alanson, Olive Lucretia, Oliver Roswell, and Alma Adelaide Taft.

David W. Taft states (freepages.family.rootsweb.ancestry.com Descendants of Benjamin E Taft by David W Taft 2004):"

> Alanson and his family moved from Mercer Co., PA to Crawford Co., PA and then came to Wisconsin in 1856. He originally moved to Lancaster, Grant Co., WI staying there for one year, then to Crawford Co., WI. He purchased land in Haney Twp. 5 Mar 1858 and remained in Haney Twp. until his death. The Taft homestead was on Sunny Ridge and comprised 540 acres of land. Alanson donated the land for the Taft School in Haney Twp. As of June 2002, the Taft Schoolhouse was still standing in it's original location. The property where the school was located had been sold and a house was built next to it. The address of the house was 47202 County Rd. W, in Haney Twp. Alanson was a carpenter by trade. He built the first store building in Boscobel and the first grist mill in Gays Mills. He was living with Oliver Roswell Taft in 1900 Haney Twp. census."

The History of Crawford & Richland Counties *(Town of Haney p 619)* notes that his father moved from PA to Trumbull Co., OH in 1833 and then removed to Asthabula Co., OH where he lived until his death, which actually happened while on a visit in West Mission, IA. Alanson moved from PA to Grant City, WI and then to Crawford Co. where he owned 540 acres in town as well as elsewhere.

The family's travels, including his aunts and uncles, seem to fit the usual pattern of westward migration of that era;. They were farmers and blacksmiths, thus agriculture would play a large role in their business lives. However, we have not found any letters or specific information that clearly indicates exactly why they moved.

Taft Family Association Officers

President: still searching
Vice President & Genealogist: now searching
Secretary/Treasurer: Pat Allen, 77 Greenfield Rd. , Montague, MA 01351; patmarkallen@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Pat Allen, 77 Greenfield Rd., Montague, MA 01351 patmarkallen@gmail.com
Website Editor: David W. Taft, Alpharetta, GA http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~taft/
Executive Committee: Charles F. Davis Jr., Sally Gagne

Annual dues of $8 per family are due and payable each year on or before June.
(Your dues are paid through the year on your mailing label.)

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